The National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy 2002, provides that Government will strengthen anti-discrimination and other laws that protect vulnerable groups and people living with HIV/AIDS from discrimination in both the public and private sector.

The Government provides anti-retroviral drugs for post-exposure prophylaxis in public sector hospitals for health providers treating HIV/AIDS patients, in order to address health issues of occupational exposure to HIV infection.

Government has initiated intensive advocacy, sensitization and training programmes for the medical and paramedical staff so that people living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated against, stigmatized or denied services.

Organ donation

2310. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints about the Organ donation;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that forced donations are being reported; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lack of awareness of family planning in slums

2311. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a study mentioning that family planning is yet to catch on in slums;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is the status in regard to family planning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A study was presented during the XXth Annual Conference of Indian Society of Medical Statistics at Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi on 19-22, December, 2002. The study was based upon a sample survey on the status of fertility and family planning in 21 slums out of 218 slums in Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh. The study has highlighted the acceptance of family planning at higher parity slowing the pace of fertility decline. The study also mentioned that non-adoption of spacing methods of contraception, early age of marriage and preference for male child result in higher fertility.

(c) Two National Family Health Surveys carried out in 1992-93 (NFHS-I) and in 1998-99 (NFHS-II) have shown the overall improvement in the status of Contraceptive Prevalence Rate. The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in the country has improved from 40.6% to 48.2% in total, from 51.0% to 58.2% in urban areas and from 36.9% to 44.7% in rural areas.

Virology Research Institute

2312. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing a Virology Research Institute in Hyderabad on the lines of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government would consider it favourably in view of the present prevalence of viral diseases in the State; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed institute would come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A request has very recently been made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of advanced diagnostic Centre for Communicable Diseases including Virology Diagnostic Centre at the Institute of Preventive Medicine in Hyderabad and the same is being examined.